

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 18 January 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
18 JANUARY 1967

1. Communist China

The political convulsions continue. We are now seeing signs that Mao's enemies are counterattacking. In fact, they may even be gaining ground in some localities.

Today, for the first time, Mao's wife and his assistant, Chen Po-ta, came under attack in posters seen in Peking. Other posters praised Chief of State Liu Shao-chi, the principal target of the Mao-inspired Red Guard. The latest military man to come under poster attack was named just last week a member of the army's purge organization.

A blackout on local news has been imposed on fourteen regional radio stations in recent days. This is a clear sign that these cities are in the grip of political struggle and that the issue has not yet been decided.

The big southern city of Canton seems to be still under the control of party bureaucrats who have successfully resisted violent Red Guard attempts to take over.

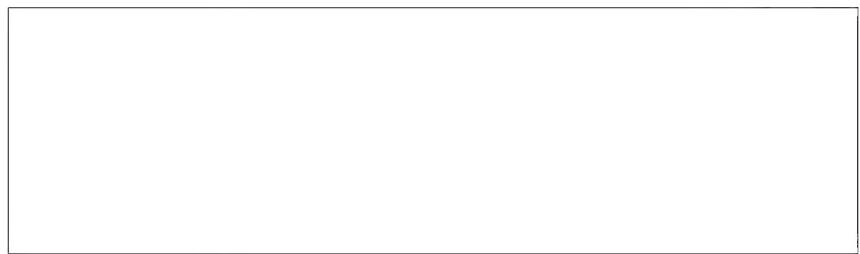
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Nanking is apparently still a stronghold of anti-Mao forces. In Shanghai, where the struggle has been under way for weeks, the conflict has still apparently not been decided.

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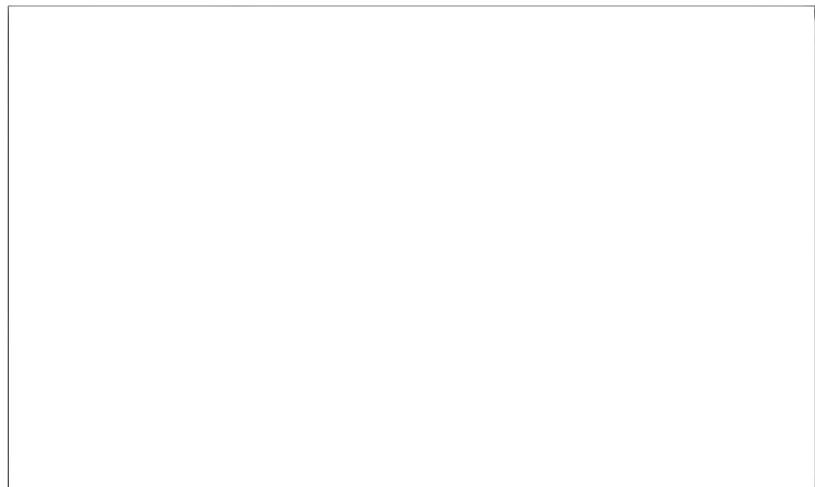
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2. Soviet Union



3. Soviet Union

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4. South Vietnam

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the military Directorate--including both Ky and Thieu--decided late yesterday to dump Defense Minister Co. Co--now in Taipei on an official junket--has evidently not been given the word. In any case, he will not be permitted to return home.

The immediate reason for Co's ouster was his alleged attempts in recent weeks to play Ky and Thieu off against each other. Co's replacement, however, is unlikely to do much to smooth over this old rivalry at the top.

Co's removal may produce some adverse reactions from the more militant southern politicians, but a reliable clandestine source reports that most of the generals who attended the Directorate meeting yesterday discounted the likelihood of major repercussions.

18 Jan 67

50X1

5. Macao

The evacuation of Portuguese dependents to Hong Kong is well under way although things are still quiet in Macao. The Chinese are continuing to insist on an abject Portuguese apology that would publicly accept responsibility for the December riots. The Portuguese are now engaged in another effort to get by with some compromise statement.

6. Chile

President Frei still hopes to visit the US on schedule. Frei's request to leave the country has now been submitted to the lower house of Congress. Approval is a sure thing there. Foreign Minister Valdes told the US Embassy that the request will then be resubmitted to the Senate in hopes of a reversal of yesterday's vote. Frei may come even if the Senate does not reverse itself.

Public reaction to the Senate's unprecedented action yesterday has been strongly on Frei's side. Most Chileans recognize it as a spiteful move by diverse groups in the Senate aimed solely at embarrassing the President.

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